

**REMARKS**

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The indication that claims 4-8 and 11-14 would be allowed if amended into independent form is acknowledged with thanks.

Claims 1-2, 5-9, and 12-13 remain in this application.

Claims 3-4, 10-11, and 14 are canceled without prejudice.

Amendments to the Disclosure

The specification is amended to add section headings; the amendment introduces no new matter.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4 and intervening dependent claim 3. Claims 3 and 4 are canceled, as stated above.

Claims 1-2, 5-9, and 12-13 are amended to overcome the Official Action's formal objections and rejection, detailed below. The claims are further amended as to form in consideration of U.S. practice and preferences.

New claim 15 recites the subject matter of claims 1, 3, and 13 based on the Official Action's indication of allowable claims.

The amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter.

Formal Matters - Objections to the Claims

The Official Action objected to the specification, stating that the specification should include sections headings.

In reply, the specification has been amended responsive to the Official Action's objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is earnestly requested.

Formal Matters - Objections to the Claims

The Official Action objected to claims 1-14 based on claim informalities, in particular as applied to capitalization and grammar.

In response, the claims are amended to obviate the objections to the claims. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully solicited.

Formal Matters - Section 112, second paragraph

The Official Action rejected claim 2 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite with respect to the use of the term "it" in the claim language.

In reply, claim 2 is amended responsive to the Official Action's rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection for indefiniteness is respectfully requested.

Substantive Issues - Section 103

The Official Action rejected claims 1-3, 9 and 10 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ackermann (US 5,520,093) in view of Parraga (US 3,356,011).

In response, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 has been amended with the subject matter of claim 4 and intervening claim 3, indicated as allowable on page 5 of the Official Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 has been placed in allowable condition and that rejection under section 103 has been rendered moot.

It is also respectfully submitted that claims depending from amended claim 1 are patentable at least for depending from a patentable parent claim.

It is further respectfully submitted that new claim 15 is patentable, based on the Official Action's indication of allowable subject matter.

Allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that Applicants have fully responded to the December 8, 2008 Official Action and that the claims as presented are patentable. In view of this, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims, as presented, and their early passage to issue.

In order to expedite the prosecution of this case, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the attorney for Applicants at the number set forth below if the Examiner is of the opinion that further discussion of this case would be helpful.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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